

PARK AND HOUSEHOLD.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* says he has raised some Ayrshire steers, and finds them square, handsome cattle; good workers. If excelled by any for work, it is the Devons. A pair now on hand, four years past, weigh 2,040 pounds. They keep as easily and flesh as quickly as any cattle he ever owned.

The *Garden*, of London, records an experience going to show that sections and cuttings retain their vitality much longer than has been generally supposed; those of vines, plums, figs, apples and pears taken from England to the colony at Victoria having been sown with success nine months after being severed from the parent stock.

An excellent machine oil can be made by taking one-third hog's lard and two-thirds coal oil, and mixing them together. It does not gum like many oils that are purchased, and is good for sewing-machines, or, indeed, any machinery. By changing the proportions, it can be made thicker or thinner to suit the requirements.

Yeast Cake Recipe.—Three cups of soft dough after it has raised, three eggs, two cups sugar, one cup butter, two-thirds cup raisins, one-half tea-spoon soda, one-half teaspoon cinnamon and allspice, one-third of a nutmeg, two table-spoons milk. Add flour to make as stiff as stirred cake. Mix all together, place in your baking tins in a warm place till light; bake half an hour.

—Instead of hanging tobacco in the ordinary way, the method of Mr. Culp consists in hanging the stalks horizontally so that each leaf is separated; and, instead of allowing the plants to hang until dry enough to bulk, they are taken down several times and slightly fermented in piles; the process being based on actual chemical analysis of the elements needed to obtain the highest developments of the good qualities, and the throwing off of the bad qualities found in the plant when green, or formed during the process of curing.

Potato Bread.—Take six good-sized potatoes, boil and mash very fine. Add three pints boiling water. Stir flour in till it makes a stiff batter. When lukewarm, add your yeast, set it in a moderately warm place. In the morning knead in flour and salt as stiff as you can. Set in a warm place to rise; knead again, adding as little flour as possible. Let it rise again, and then put it into your pans, making them half full. When the loaves have risen to the top of the pans, bake them a good brown.

—All the Joints.—Thanks to the sewing-machine, there is in almost every household a convenient little can of distributing oil. Many housekeepers never consider that it can be used upon anything but the sewing-machine, while hinges creak and keys turn with difficulty in their rusty locks. If one has not this little can, a trifle of oil in a cup and a feather will answer the purpose. Heavy articles of furniture provided with casters, are sometimes more difficult to move than if they were without them. A drop or two of oil will often do more than a large application of strength.

Liquid Glue.—The farmer often requires glue in mending wood-work. The *Drugists' Circular* thus tells how easily it can be made: An excellent liquid glue can be made by dissolving glue in nitric ether. This ether only takes up a certain quantity of glue, so that there is no danger of the solution being too concentrated. The glue obtained in this way can be made to have the consistency of molasses, and its tenacity is said to be twice that dissolved in hot water. A few pieces of india rubber of the size of a bullet put into the glue and well shaken will dissolve in a few days, and add to the adhesiveness of the preparation, as well as protect it from the action of the moisture.

Training Heifers.

Nothing is more agreeable to most cows than the operation of milking, except, perhaps, eating, and a cow with a distended udder will usually prefer to be milked. Nevertheless, heifers are generally nervous about it, frequently kick, and never stand still at first. Kind treatment and a gentle hand are essential. A rough man will be sure to make the heifer a kicker. The best way to begin is to sit by the heifer, on her right side, of course; make her place her right foot back, then grasp the cord above the back of the left leg with the left hand and hold on. She cannot lift the hind leg well, and will not try; but she will try to step over your arm with her right foot. This is easily prevented by raising the elbow, and she is absolutely forced to stand as she is. Meanwhile you can first clean and manipulate her bag and teats with your right hand with entire safety. When she stands quiet you can use both hands, but be ready on the least suspicion of a movement to replace the left. The heifer should be tied in a stall at first, and have something to eat, perhaps, and, if very wild, it may be necessary to begin by handling her, rubbing, brushing, or carding her gently, and gradually getting her accustomed to have her udder handled; but all this ought to have been done before she calved.—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune*.

Specialties in Farming.

General farming or mixed husbandry in more than nine cases out of ten will be found to be better than exclusive attention to any one specialty. The owners of cranberry marshes cannot be general farmers; those who have no land fit for tillage cannot grow grain, but the general rule holds good. The reasons are many—too many to discuss in full. The general system enables the farmer to more economically make use of his own or hired labor—work can better be distributed throughout the year. It is, as a rule, better adapted to retaining or increasing the fertility of the soil, and it secures the farmer from the evils following the fluctuations in price in all specialties. With a good crop of tobacco or hops selling at fifty cents a pound, the specialty farmer can look with undisguised pity on his plodding neighbor; but if one of these crops be his sole dependence and sell at three cents a pound, the plodding neighbor may be asked for the loan of enough money to buy the necessities of life for a year. It seems paradoxical, but we cannot always afford to cultivate those crops alone which seem to pay the best.—*Western Farmer*.

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